

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for modifying the development of a plant comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2,

producing a plant or plant part from said transformed cell; and

selecting a plant or plant part that has at least one modified phenotype compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell;

wherein said modified phenotype is selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein-said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant cell is transformed with a plasmid vector containing said nucleic acid sequence.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence is obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is introduced in a sense direction into a plant.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a constitutive promoter.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increased plant organ size compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said plant organ is a leaf or a stem

~~modified phenotype is an increase in leaf size or increased stem size compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of at least one plant organ compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of leaves, flowers, or seeds compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence further comprises one or more non-native or non-endogenous control sequences that regulate the expression of said nucleic acid sequence in said transformed plant cell; and optionally, a transcription termination sequence

comprising:

~~introducing into a plant a nucleic acid sequence that increases the expression of said nucleic acid or which increases the level of CDC27A protein.~~

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2 further comprises comprising the introduction into a plant of a construct comprising,

(i) ~~a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing expression of a *ede27a* nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;~~  
[[(ii)]] one or more control sequence(s) capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and~~/or~~ optionally  
[[(iii)]] a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A transgenic plant obtained by the method according to claim 1, or its progeny, wherein said plant has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell changed or accelerated development compared to a corresponding wild-type plant of the same species.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The plant of claim 17 having ~~accelerated development earlier flowering~~ when compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell

~~the corresponding wild-type plant, wherein said plant has in at least one cell increased expression of a *edc27a* nucleic acid sequence and/or has in at least one cell increased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to a wild-type plant of the same plant species.~~

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The plant according to claim 17, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A transgenic plant part[[],] or a propagule from a transgenic plant according to claim 17 or its progeny;

wherein said plant or its progeny has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A genetic construct comprising:  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2 that increases the expression of a *edc27a* nucleic acid and/or that increases levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein in a plant cell transformed with the genetic construct, compared to a corresponding untransformed plant cell, wherein a plant produced

~~from said transformed plant cell has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering compared to a plant produced from the corresponding untransformed plant cell; one or more non-native or non-endogenous control sequences that regulate the expression of said nucleic acid sequence in said transformed plant cell; and optionally a transcription termination sequence.~~

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said control sequence is a constitutive promoter or at least a part thereof.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A plant or plant part comprising the genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said plant or plant part has changed or accelerated development.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A food product ~~derived from said comprising the transgenic plant according to claim 17 or from a part of said plant.~~

Claim 31 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): An animal feed or food comprising ~~said plant or plant part the transgenic plant according to claim 17 or a part of said plant.~~

Claims 32-33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim [[18]] 17,  
wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or  
wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean,  
leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A transgenic plant part, a propagule or progeny  
obtained from the transgenic plant according to claim [[18]] 17;  
wherein said plant part, propagule or progeny has a modified phenotype selected from  
the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and  
earlier flowering, compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant  
cell.

Claims 36-37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method for modifying the development of a plant  
or a plant structure compared to an unmodified plant, comprising:  
transforming a plant cell with a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ  
ID NO: 2 or a sequence having at least 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, and  
cultivating a plant or plant part from said transformed cell,  
wherein said plant or plant part has increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a  
plant organ, or earlier flowering compared to a corresponding plant or plant part obtained  
from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has accelerated development compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has a plant organ of increased size, an increased number of plant organs, or early flowering compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.